

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original). An insert for use in a beverage preparation machine of a type comprising a brew head comprising an upwardly directed inlet for supplying water to the brew head and a downwardly directed outlet for outflow of beverage produced by the machine, the insert comprising, or being adapted to contain in use, a quantity of beverage ingredients in a brewing volume, a lower surface of the insert comprising an inlet and an outlet arranged to communicate respectively with the inlet and outlet of the brew head of the beverage preparation machine when the insert is inserted into the machine such that, in use, water from the inlet of the brew head passes upwardly through the inlet of the insert into the brewing volume and such that beverage produced from the water and the quantity of beverage ingredients passes downwardly through the outlet of the insert to flow out of the outlet of the brew head, characterized in that the lower surface of the insert further comprises a RFID or barcode which, in use, is readable by a RFID or barcode reader of the beverage preparation machine for controlling operation of the beverage preparation machine, wherein the barcode or RFID is located on the lower surface of the insert such that a line joining the outlet of the insert to a centre of the barcode or RFID and a line joining the outlet of the insert to the inlet of the insert separated by a minimum angular separation of greater than 70 degrees.

2. (Original) An insert as claimed in claim 1 wherein the line joining the outlet of the insert to the centre of the barcode or RFID and the line joining the outlet of the insert to the inlet of the insert subtend an angle of greater than or equal to 85 degrees.

3. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any preceding claims~~ claim 2, wherein the outlet is located at a centre or near a centre of the lower surface of the insert.

4. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any preceding claims~~ claim 3, wherein the barcode or RFID is located at or near a periphery of the lower surface.

5. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any preceding claims~~ claim 4, wherein the insert is disc-shaped.

6. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any preceding claims~~ claim 5, wherein the insert is a cartridge.

7. (Original) An insert as claimed in claim 6 wherein the cartridge is rigid or semi-rigid.

8. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~claim 6 or~~ claim 7 wherein the lower surface is a laminate.

9. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any of claims 6 to 8~~ claim 8, wherein the inlet and outlet of the cartridge are portion of the lower surface which are opened for transportation, in use, by piercing the lower surface.

10. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 5, wherein the insert defines a receptacle for receiving loose beverage ingredients.

11. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 5, wherein the insert defines a receptacle for receiving a container of beverage ingredients, wherein the container comprises filtering means.

12. (Original) An insert as claimed in claim 11 wherein the container is formed at least in part from filter paper or filtering membrane.

13. (Original) An insert as claimed in claim 12 wherein the container is a filter bag.

14. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 13~~ claim 13, wherein the inlet and outlet of the insert are open.

15. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 13~~ claim 13, wherein the inlet and outlet of the insert are closed prior to use by means of a frangible membrane.

16. (Original) An insert as claimed in claim 15 wherein the frangible membrane comprises a tear-off portion.

17. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 16~~ claim 16, which insert is reusable.

18. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 17, wherein the inlet of the insert, outlet of the insert and barcode or RFID are coplanar.

19. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 18, wherein the inlet of the insert, outlet of the insert and barcode or RFID are not coplanar.

20. (Currently Amended) An insert as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 19, wherein the insert further comprises means for preventing rotation of the insert in the brew head after insertion of the insert and closing of the brew head.

21. (Original) An insert as claimed in claim 20 wherein the means for preventing rotation comprises an externally directed handle or tab portion.

22. (Original) An insert as claimed in claim 21 wherein the externally directed handle or tab portion is located substantially diametrically opposite the inlet of the insert.

23. (Currently Amended) A beverage preparation system comprising a beverage preparation machine and an insert for use in said machine, said insert being as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 22.

24. (Original) A beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the beverage preparation machine comprises a brew head comprising an upwardly directed inlet for supplying water to the brew head, a downwardly directed outlet for outflow of beverage produced by the machine and a barcode or RFID reader having a window in the brew head through which signals may be transmitted, wherein a line joining the outlet of the machine to a centre of the window and a line joining the outlet of the machine to the inlet of the machine subtend an angle of greater than 70 degrees.

25. (Original) A beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 24 wherein the line joining the outlet of the machine to the centre of the window and the line joining the

outlet of the machine to the inlet of the machine subtends an angle of greater than or equal to 85 degrees.

26. (Currently Amended) A beverage preparation system as claimed in ~~claim 24~~ or claim 25 wherein the outlet of the beverage preparation machine is located at or near a centre of the brew head.

27. (Currently Amended) A beverage preparation system as claimed in ~~any of claims 24 to 26~~ claim 26, wherein the barcode reader or RFID reader window is located at or near a periphery of the brew head.

28. (Currently Amended) A beverage preparation system as claimed in ~~any of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 27, wherein the brew head comprises a mount for receiving the insert so as to prevent relative rotation of the insert and the brew head once the brew head is closed.

29. (Original) A beverage preparation system as claimed in claim 28 wherein the mount comprises a recess or opening for receiving an externally directed handle or tab portion of the insert.

30. (Currently Amended) A beverage preparation system as claimed in ~~claim 28~~ or claim 29 wherein the mount comprises an opening through which the inlet of the brew head, outlet of the brew head and barcode reader or RFID reader window are accessible.

31. (Currently Amended) A beverage preparation system as claimed in ~~any of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 27, wherein the brew head comprises a cavity for receiving the insert wherein one of the insert and cavity comprises a key and the other of the insert and cavity comprises a recess, wherein interengagement of the key and recess prevents relative rotation of the insert and the brew head once the brew head is closed.